

From: Shafqat Manzur
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/25/01 12:25am
Subject: Comment on agreement between DOJ and Microsoft Corp.

Sir/Madam,

Following is an opinion on the recent settlement reached between DOJ and Microsoft Corporation in the landmark anti-trust case. I am not in any way affiliated with the state or federal government or Microsoft Corp. and am providing this brief as a consumer.

With all due respect to the involved employees at the DOJ, I strongly disagree with their notion that this agreement will benefit consumers and foster competition in the information technology arena. I don't know if there was any political pressure to promptly conclude the case but it is too obvious that the DOJ staff went out of their way to reach a settlement with Microsoft. The previous administration demanded tough concessions from Microsoft and rightfully so. The current administration gradually softened its stance on the case and finally agreed to terms which fall far shorter to even what Microsoft had agreed to during previous settlement talks.

The terms of this settlement definitely do not go far enough to ensure benefit to consumers. There is no indication of any punishment to Microsoft for violating its monopoly power not only in the operating systems but also the office application suite market. They have repeatedly flaunted consumers and the state and federal governments over the years and yet they are simply about to walk away with no punitive damages. This is clear proof that their strategy of an enormous investment in hiring popular law firms to hold the government at bay while they bring in billions in profits over the years from their illegal business model has been a success. There is no question that they have won. With regards to the remedy for future wrongdoing, I guarantee you that competitors will not stand a chance to compete with Microsoft in the future any more than they have in the past. There has never been a competitive market and there is no reason to predict that there will be one. Microsoft has in the past crushed its competitors and will absolutely do the same again. You have left the Microsoft culture intact and since they don't agree that they have broken any rules, they will not change the 'Microsoft way'.

I thank you for your time,

Shafqat Manzur